

Division of Environmental Health and Communicable Disease Prevention					
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Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Suspect Plague Case
Investigation Form
Record of Investigation of Communicable Disease (CD-2)



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Plague

Overview (1,2)

For a complete description of plague, refer to the following texts:

• Control of Communicable Diseases Manual (CCDM).

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• Red Book, Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases.

Plague is a potential bioterrorism weapon. The key identifying sign for pneumonic plague is the acute onset of a bloody, productive cough in an otherwise healthy individual. If you suspect that you are dealing with a bioterrorism situation (simultaneous multiple cases reinforce this suspicion), contact your Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator and consult your emergency procedure manual.

Case Definition⁽³⁾

Clinical description

Plague is transmitted to humans by fleas or by direct exposure to infected tissues or respiratory droplets; the disease is characterized by fever, chills, headache, malaise, prostration, and leukocytosis that manifests in one or more of the following principal clinical forms:

- Regional lymphadenitis (bubonic plague)
- Septicemia without an evident bubo (septicemic plague)
- Plague pneumonia, resulting from hematogenous spread in bubonic or septicemic cases (secondary pneumonic plague) or inhalation of infectious droplets (primary pneumonic plague)
- Pharyngitis and cervical lymphadenitis resulting from exposure to larger infectious droplets or ingestion of infected tissues (pharyngeal plague)

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

Confirmatory:

- Isolation of *Yersinia pestis* from a clinical specimen or
- Fourfold or greater change in serum antibody titer to *Y. pestis* fraction 1 (F1) antigen *Presumptive*:
- Elevated serum antibody titer(s) to *Y. pestis* F1 antigen (without documented fourfold or greater change) in a patient with no history of plague vaccination or
- Detection of F1 antigen in a clinical specimen by fluorescent assay



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Case classification

Confirmed: a clinically compatible case with confirmatory laboratory results *Probable:* a clinically compatible case with presumptive laboratory results

Suspected: a clinically compatible case without presumptive or confirmatory laboratory

results

Information Needed for Investigation

- Verify the diagnosis. Determine the vaccination status of the case (a vaccine is available, but because it is not recommended for routine immunization, it is unlikely the case will have been vaccinated). What laboratory tests were conducted? What were the results? What laboratory conducted the testing and what is their phone number? What are the patient's clinical symptoms? What is the name and phone number of the attending physician?
- Contact the Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator immediately.
- Establish the extent of the illness. Determine if household members, travelling companions, co-workers, or other close contacts are, or have been ill. Obtain the names, addresses, and phone numbers of contacts.

Case/Contact Follow Up And Control Measures

If terrorist activity is suspected:

- Contact appropriate law enforcement authorities.
- Contact the Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator.
- Complete the "Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Suspect Plague Case Investigation Form." This form is included in this Section.

General follow-up:

- Determine the source of the infection.
- What is the occupation of the case? Would other co-workers be at risk of acquiring plague?
- Determine if household members, travelling companions, co-workers, or other close contacts require treatment or prophylaxis.
- Review recent travel history of case. For ten days prior to onset of illness obtain the date of departure, destinations, length of stay, routes, activities, or other details that would identify the time and location of infection.

NOTE: Because plague is not endemic in Missouri, the occurrence of a case necessitates that bioterrorism *must* be considered. If the case has a remarkable travel history or is employed in an occupation that is prone to exposure, a bioterrorism event may be less likely, but the occurrence of a single case of plague *must still be reported immediately* to



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the Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator. As part of the follow-up and in order to determine if the case resulted from a bioterrorist event, determine **all** activities of the case within the previous ten days, particularly attendance at events with large numbers of people.

Control Measures

See the Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, Plague, "Methods of control."

See the Red Book, Plague, "Control Measures."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <u>Prevention of Plague – Recommendations of</u> the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) ⁴.

General:

- Identify symptomatic and close contacts of pneumonic plague cases and ensure that they seek medical treatment immediately.
- Determine if health-care workers were exposed and evaluate the need for chemoprophylaxis.

Laboratory Procedures

Plague is characterized by massive growth of *Y. pestis* in tissues. The organism has a bipolar (safety-pin) appearance and can be visualized either with Wayson staining or Gram staining of infected tissue.

- A fluorescent antibody test for the presence of *Y. pestis* performed directly from infected tissue, bubo aspirate, sputum, CSF or blood specimen is available at the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL). A positive direct fluorescent antibody test is presumptive evidence of *Y. pestis*.
- Specimens (listed above) can also be cultured for the presence of the organism. Culture isolates suspected of being *Y. pestis* should be submitted to the SPHL for confirmation and forwarding to the CDC.
- A single positive serologic test by passive hemagglutination assay or enzyme immunoassay in an unvaccinated patient who has not previously had plague also provides presumptive evidence of infection. Seroconversion and/or a fourfold difference in antibody titer between two serum specimens obtained 4 weeks to 3 months apart provides serological confirmation.

Additional information on laboratory procedures can be obtained from the Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator or from the SPHL web site at: http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/Lab/index.htm. (5 May 2003)



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Reporting Requirements

Plague is a Category I(B) disease and shall be reported to the local health authority or to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) within 24 hours of first knowledge or suspicion by telephone, facsimile or other rapid communication. Since *Y. pestis* is a potential agent of bioterrorism, DHSS urges reporting cases (suspect, probable, or confirmed) as soon as possible.

- 1. For all cases of plague, complete a "DHSS Disease Case Report" form (CD-1).
- 2. For <u>non-bioterrorism</u> cases of plague, complete a "Record of Investigation of Communicable Disease" form (CD-2).
- 3. Entry of the completed CD-1 into MOHSIS negates the need for the paper CD-1 to be forwarded to the Regional Health Office.
- 4. Send the completed secondary investigation form to the Regional Health Office.
- 5. All outbreaks or "suspected" outbreaks must be reported as soon as possible (by phone, fax, or e-mail) to the Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator. This can be accomplished by completing the Missouri Outbreak Surveillance Report (CD-51).
- 6. Within 90 days from the conclusion of an outbreak, submit the final outbreak report to the Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator.

References

- 1. Chin, James, Ed. "Plague." <u>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</u>. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 381 387.
- American Academy of Pediatrics. "Plague." In: Pickering, LK., ed. <u>2000 Red Book:</u> <u>Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases</u>, 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL. 2000: 450 - 452.
- 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <u>Case Definitions for Infectious Conditions Under Public Health Surveillance</u>. MMWR 1997; 46 (No. RR-10). "Plague," 1996, http://www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/casedef/plague_current.htm (5 May 2003).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <u>Prevention of Plague Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)</u>. MMWR 1996:45 No. RR-14: 1-15. <u>http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/RR/RR4514.pdf</u> (5 May 2003).

Other Sources of Information

- 1. Butler, Thomas. "Yersinia Species (Including Plague)." Eds. Gerald L. Mandell, John E. Bennett, & Raphael Dolin, Eds. <u>Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases</u>, 5th ed. New York: Churchill Livingstone, 2000: 2406-2414.
- Lederberg, Joshua. "Biological Warfare and Bioterrorism." Eds. Gerald L. Mandell, John E. Bennett, & Raphael Dolin, Eds. <u>Principles and Practice of Infectious</u> <u>Diseases</u>, 5th ed. New York: Churchill Livingstone, 2000: 3235-3238.



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- 4. Risi, George F. "Plague (*Yersinia pestis*)." <u>APIC Infection Control and Applied Epidemiology Principles and Practice</u>. Ed. Russell N. Olmsted. St. Louis: Mosby, 1996: 72-1–72-3.
- 5. The Merck Veterinary Manual. 8th Ed. Ed. Susan E. Aiello. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & Co., Inc., 1998: 485-486, 2161, 2164. http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp (search "plague"). (5 May 2003)

Web Sites

- 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "CDC Plague Home Page." June, 2001. http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/plague/index.htm (5 May 2003).
- 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plague Information." January 2003. http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/plague/index.asp (5 May 2003).

Plague

(Bubonic Plague, Pneumonic Plague) FACT SHEET

What is plague?

Plague is a serious illness caused by a bacterium called *Yersinia pestis*. The disease is carried by rodents (e.g., rats, mice, ground squirrels) and can be transmitted by fleas to humans as well as to other animals. Plague is very rare in the United States, but cases are still reported in the southwestern states of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and California. **Bubonic plague** is the most common form and affects the body's lymph nodes. When the infection involves the lungs, the disease is called **pneumonic plague**.

How do people get plague?

People can get plague from the bite of infected fleas or by a scratch or bite while handling infected animals. You can also get it by breathing in air-borne droplets from people who have the plague infection in their lungs or from infected household pets.

What are the symptoms of plague?

The first symptoms of bubonic plague include the sudden onset of fever with painful swelling of the lymph nodes, called buboes, in the areas closest to the flea bite (typically, in the groin, armpit, or neck). Chills, muscle aches, weakness, fatigue, nausea, and headache may also occur. If the infection spreads to the lungs, it produces pneumonia that is highly contagious and often, fatal. Pneumonic plague is characterized by fever, swelling of lymph nodes, cough, chest pain, and frequently, blood in the saliva.

When do symptoms start?

The symptoms of bubonic plague begin 1 to 7 days following the bite of an infected flea. The incubation period for primary plague pneumonia is usually 1 to 4 days.

What is the treatment for plague?

Antibiotics can be prescribed by a doctor to treat plague. It is extremely important to detect and treat the disease early in its course. If left untreated, about half of those with bubonic plague and 100% of those with pneumonic plague will die. Prompt antibiotic treatment and supportive therapy can reduce the case-fatality rate. Persons who are infected with pneumonic plague should be strictly isolated with precautions against airborne spread until 48 hours of appropriate antibiotic therapy have been competed and there has been a favorable clinical response.

How can people avoid getting plague?

Avoid rodent-infested areas, if possible. If you go to areas where plague is endemic (an ongoing problem), take precautions to protect yourself against rodents and their fleas.

Avoid contact with sick or dead animals found on the roadside or in the woods. The risk of being bitten by infected fleas is high when plague infection kills large numbers of rodents. The infected and starving fleas aggressively look for new hosts.

Carefully supervise the activities of all children and household pets (i.e., dogs and cats) when outdoors in forest/picnic areas where rodents make their nests.

International travelers to a plague-endemic area (areas reported to have an ongoing plague problem) are generally at low risk for infection for *Y. pestis*. If you are travelling to a plague-endemic area call your doctor or the local public health agency for advice.

Report all suspected plague cases promptly to the local public health agency.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Section for Communicable Disease Prevention Phone: (866) 628-9891 or (573) 751-6113

Today's date:	//	:	ID:
Patient name	First	Last	
Sex: Male Fen	nale	Date of birth: / /	Age:
Home address:		Zip:	Phone 1:
City/Borough:		County::	Phone 2:
Employer:		Occupation:	Work location:
Work address:		Zip:	Phone:
City/Borough		County:	
Any recent travel outsi	de of MO?	N Unknown If yes, where an	nd when:
MEDICAL HISTORY	:	Dr.'s name	and contact info:
(Circle one answer for e	each symptom)	ymptoms for the first time since	
ivew offset skill festolis	Y N Unknown	, vesicie, pustuie, pui pui le iesions).	Onset date: / /
Location of lesion(s		Initial description:	Progression:
	,	Date Notes	Date Notes
Itchy	Y N Unk		
Swollen	Y N Unk		
Painful	Y N Unk		
Oozing	Y N Unk		
Satellite blisters	Y N Unk		
Eschar	Y N Unk		
Surrounding Edema	Y N Unk		
Fever	Y N Unknown	If yes, max temp:F	Onset date:/
Chills	Y N Unknown	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Onset date:/
Malaise	Y N Unknown		Onset date:/
Muscle aches	Y N Unknown		Onset date:/
Headache	Y N Unknown		
Severe	Y N Unknown		Onset date:/
Pharyngitis	Y N Unknown		Onset date:/

Cough	Y N Unknown Productive Bloody	Onset date:/
Chest pain	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Shortness of breath	Y N Unknown	Onset date://
Cyanosis	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Respiratory distress	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Abdominal pain	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Nausea/vomiting	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Diarrhea	Y N Unknown Bloody	Onset date:/
Lymphadenopathy	Y N Unknown If yes, where?	Onset date:/
Bubo(es)	Y N Unknown If yes, where?	Onset date:/
Hepatomegaly Tender	Y N Unknown	Onset date://
Splenomegaly _ Tender	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Sepsis	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Shock	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Meningitis Hemorrhagic	Y N Unknown	Onset date:/
Necrotic Appendages	Y N Unknown	Onset date://
Other signs/symptoms: Care:	Name and Location Date of visit/consult:	
Care: ☐ Admitted to hospital		Comments
☐ Seen by PMD:		
☐ Seen by Derm:		
Seen by ID:		
Other	<u> </u>	

Antibiotics given?			Other Treatment given? Y N Unknown			
If yes, give name:			es, describe:			
Dose:						
Start date:	Stop date:					
Current clinical status	☐ Improved	☐ No change	☐ Worsened	☐ Back to baseline		
Describe progression:						
Disposition	☐ Discharged	Admitted to ward	Admitted to ICU	Outpatient Died		
			If died, date of death	//		
Current diagnosis	Primary Pneun	nonic Plague				
	Secondary Pne	umonic Plague				
	Septicemic Plag	gue				
	☐ Bubonic Plague	2				
	☐ Pneumonia of U	J nknown Etiology				
	Other (specify)					

LABORATORY SPECI	MENS (OBT	AINED:				
Blood/serum	Y	N	Unknown	Status:	at hospital 🗌 sent to SP	PHL sent to C	DC
Tracheal/lung aspirate	Y	N	Unknown	Status: 🗌	at hospital 🗌 sent to SF	PHL sent to C	DC
Sputum	Y	N	Unknown	Status: 🗌	at hospital 🗌 sent to SF	PHL sent to C	DC
Skin biopsy or skin lesion	n						
material	Y	N	Unknown	Status:	at hospital sent to SF	PHL sent to C	DC
Bubo aspirate	Y	N	Unknown	Status: 🗌	at hospital 🗌 sent to SF	PHL sent to C	DC
CSF	Y	N	Unknown	Status: 🗌	at hospital 🗌 sent to SF	PHL sent to C	DC
Other	De	scrib	e:				
Specimens available now	?		Y	N Unknown	n		
			If ye	s, what is avai	ilable and where?		
LAB RESULTS:	1				1		
Specimen	Da Obta	ate Sinad	Tost (Ordered	Laboratory	Result	Current Location of Specimen
Blood/serum	Obta	imeu	1 est v	or uereu	Laboratory	Result	Specimen
Tracheal/lung aspirate							
Sputum Sputum							
Skin biopsy or skin							
lesion material							
Bubo aspirate							
CSF							
Other, specify							
Other, specify							
Other, specify							
OTHER DIAGNOSTIC	TESTS	:					
Chest x-ray	Y	N	Unknown				
	If	yes, d	lescribe findin	gs:			
Other	De	scrib	e:				

ENVIRONMENT	AL S	AMPI	LING/TESTING			
Location of Specia	men			Residence	Work Place	Other, specify
Type of Specimen						
Where was specin	nen(s)	collec	eted			
Date(s) collected						
Type of test(s) per	form	ed				
Result(s) of test(s))					
Date(s) of test res	ult(s)					
Name of laborato	ry per	formi	ng test(s)			
Address of Labor	atory	perfo	rming test(s)			
Telephone number test(s)	r of la	aborat	tory performing			_
	JTIAI	RISI	K EXPOSURES			
YES	NO 	UNK		ociated With Animals		
			If yes, describe Own Pets			
Ш	Ш	Ш	If yes, describe			
			Contact With An	imals		
			If yes, describe Contact With Cat			
	Ш	Ш	If ves, describe			
			Contact With Rat	s, Mice, Ground Squirre	ls, Prairie Dogs or Chipmu	nks
			If yes, describe	or Mice in Home or Place	C XX/ 1	
Ш	Ш	Ш	If yes, describe	or Mice in Home or Place	e of work	
OTHE	R PO	TENT:	IAL RISK EXPOS	URES IN THE 10 DAYS	PRIOR TO ONSET OF S	IGNS/SYMPTOMS
YES	NO	UNK				
					s Visited in the 10 Days Price	or to
			Onset of Signs/Syr If ves. describe			
			Hunting Trips			
			If yes, describe			
	Ш	Ш	Hiking Trips If yes, describe			
			Camping Trips			
			If yes, describe Contact With Unu	isual Powders, Dusts, or	Aerosols	
]] [If yes, describe			
			Any Unusual Occi If yes, describe	urrences		
			ii yes, describe			

ACTIVITIES DURING THE TEN DAYS PRIOR TO ONSET OF SIGNS/SYMPTOMS

This section of the questionnaire should be completed for activities that took place at a second residence, at work, during recent travel outside home town or city, at sporting events, at religious meetings, at recreational events, at volunteer activities, at other meetings/events, at other outdoor activities and while doing hobby activities.

Month												
Date for past ten days →												
Day of the week* →												
Residence 2 (e.g., vacation home) Location (address):												
Work 1: Location: Shift: % time outdoors:												
Work 2: Location: Shift: % time outdoors:												
Recent travel 1 outside home town or city describe:	Location:											
Recent travel 2 outside home town or city describe:	Location:											
Sporting Event 1 describe:	Location:											
Sporting Event 2, describe:	Location:											
Religious Meeting 1, describe:	Location:											

^{*}Use following acronyms: S=Sunday, M=Monday, T=Tuesday, W=Wednesday, Th=Thursday, F=Friday and Sa=Saturday.

Date for past ten days →												
Day of the week* →												
Religious Meeting 2, describe:	Location:											
Recreational Event 1, describe:	Location:											
Recreational Event 2, describe:	Location:											
Volunteer Activity 1, describe:	Location:											
Volunteer Activity 2, describe:	Location:											
Other Meetings/Events 1, describe:	Location:											
Other Meetings/Events 2, describe:	Location:											
Other Outdoor Activity 1, describe:	Location:											
Other Outdoor Activity 2, describe:	Location:											
Hobby Activity 1, describe:	Location:											
Hobby Activity 2, describe:	Location:											

^{*}Use following acronyms: S=Sunday, M=Monday, T=Tuesday, W=Wednesday, Th=Thursday, F=Friday and Sa=Saturday.

ASSOCIATED CASES

	Contact (within 10 days of onset of illness) With Persons With a Febrile, Flu-Like,
	and/or Resniratory Illness
	and/or Respiratory Illness
	Name(s) Address(es) or Other Locating Information
	Description of Illness(es)
	Date(s) of Onset (if known)
	Patient/Family Aware of Other Persons With a Febrile, Flu-Like, and/or Respiratory Illness
	Name(s)Address(es) or Other Locating Information
	Description of Illness(es)
	Date(s) of Onset (if known)
	Other Associated Cases
	Number
	Describe Association With Patient
ame of person compl	leting form: Phone:

- 1. Phone and Fax numbers at Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS): Ph: 1-800-392-0272, FAX: 573-751-6041
- 2. If further information becomes available on this patient, ask them to call the Division of Environmental Health and Communicable Disease Prevention (573-751-6000) during business hours, or after hours, call Department Emergency Response Management Center (1-800-392-0272) and ask for the on call officer
- 3. If there are any questions by the provider re: prophylaxis or specimen preparation, refer them to or fax them the appropriate MDHSS Alert

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE*

				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		FOR CO	DDING O	NLY
Patient's Name						County	City	
Address		City	State	Zip Code	-	Twnshp.	Dise	ase
Birth / Se:	x Race M [] F W 1	N 🔲 Other	County of Resid	dence		Hospital		Source
Parent's Name If No	t Adult		Phone			, , ,		
Hospitalized I	Iospital Name		 	Date of Onset		Physician	t I	
Physician's Name						Phone Number		
Address					Date			
Previous Address (if	f significant)			1.00	Date M	oved	 	
Place Employed or S	School Attended			Occupation	1			·
Date Reported	How did you first l	earn of this ca	ase?			Date		
Disease			☐ Sus		inning estigatio	n,		
Chief Clinical Sympt	toms with Dates:		<u>,,</u>			······································		
								
		 						
								
								
Treatment (type, am-	ount, dates):					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
		DIACNOST	IC I ABOBATORY	TESTS ON PATIEN	ጥ			
Type of Specimen	Date Collected	DIAGNOST	Result	TESTS ON TATIEN		Name of Laborat	ory	
·					, ,			
Are there other asso	ociated cases?		_If yes, how many	, and how associated	1?			
Household Sanitatio	n: [] Good	Milk Supply						
	Fair Poor		у					
	[_] , ,,,		Continued on rev					

CD-2 (rev. 8-85)

^{*} Special forms should be used for investigations of Diphtheria (CD 2A), Encephalitis or Meningitis (CD 2B), Enteric Infections (CD 2C), and Foodborne Outbreaks (CD 2D).

						.
						
					<u> </u>	
						
<u> </u>		 				
		CONTACTS	(Household and O	ther\		
Name	Age	Relation	Similar	Laboratory	Date	D 1
and Address	Sex	to Patient	Illness? Onset Date	Specimen	Collected	Result
			- ·			
						
	i					
				:		
		4 - 1/11				
rative and Follow-up Note						
rative and rollow-up Note	5					
bable Source				·-···		
	Date of Deat	:h	Cause of I	reath		
Recovered Died	Date of Dec.					